

A Job Is a Right Campaign is a Milwaukee-based, volunteer organization of labor and community activists. Our members come from all communities and work together to fight racism, support unions and advance the cause of all poor and working people. The group was formed in January of 1994 and has grown into a regional network with members throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states. For more information on our activities and how you can get involved, contact us at the address, phone, fax or e-mail listed below.

In July of 1995, AJRC joined with the African American women's group Sisters By Choice and the Brew City Anti-Authoritarian Collective to form the Milwaukee Coalition to Free Mumia. Together we carried out a number of activities to raise the demand for a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The Coalition organized a public meeting of 70 people at America's Black Holocaust Museum and a rally of 80 people outside the Federal Building. We collected names on petitions and signed up over 45 local endorsers for the call for a new trial. Among the endorsers were State Sen. Gwendolynne Moore; State Rep. Johnnie Morris-Tatum; former Wisc. Sec. of State Vel Phillips; former Milw. County Labor Council Sec.-Treas. Bruce Colburn; American Indian Movement State Dir. Phil Bautista; Muhammad's Mosque No. 3 Minister William Muhammad; the UWM Student Assoc.; community activist E.G. Chacon; AFSCME Local 82 president Stan Yasaitis; *Shepherd Express* publisher Doug Hissom; *City Edition* editor Jeffrey White; and the *Latino Community News*.

In February of 1996, the Coalition sponsored a public meeting of over 100 people at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society Museum featuring Ramona Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. We also organized a van of activists to travel to Philadelphia for the Aug. 12 National Emergency Rally, a mobilization of over 10,000 people that played a key role in winning a stay of execution for Mumia.

Now we must intensify our efforts to win his freedom.

Copies of this pamphlet are 50 cents each (35 cents when ordering ten or more.)

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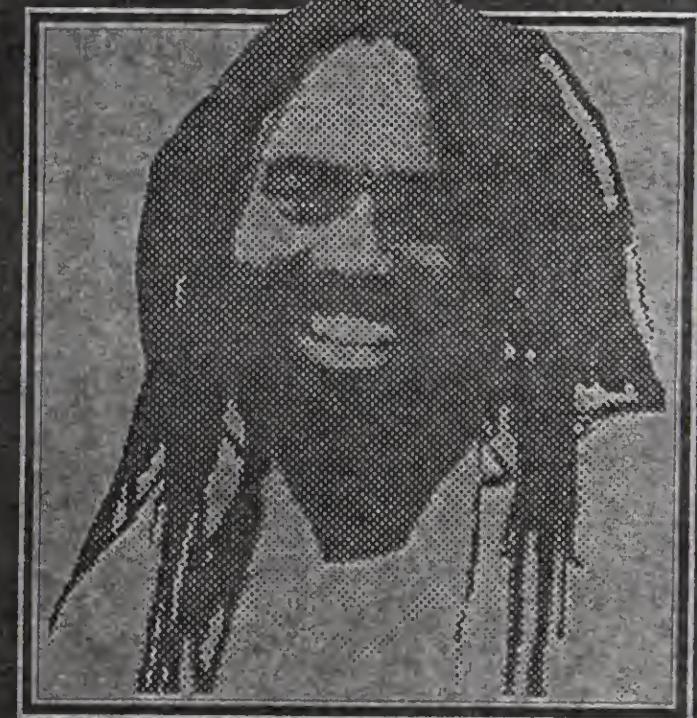
A Job is a Right C A M P A I G N

A JOB IS A RIGHT CAMPAIGN

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Voice of the Voiceless: The Case of **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

Produced by

the Milwaukee Regional Office of
A JOB IS A RIGHT CAMPAIGN

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African National Congress Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa sent a message to Gov. Thomas Ridge that read:

"We write to urge you to use your power as governor to commute the death sentence imposed upon Mumia Abu-Jamal and in addition to allow a retrial of his case. We ask for your compassionate reconsideration of the sentence that has been imposed and that he be removed from death row and allowed to appeal his sentence."

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest trade union federation inside South Africa, also expressed solidarity with Mumia. A May 31, 1995 statement to Gov. Ridge issued by COSATU's International Relations Office read:

"It is clear from the report that we received that the trial procedures were fraught with bias and prejudice..."

"Our organization has struggled against all forms of racism, oppression and the use of the death sentence to silence political activists. We are therefore vehemently opposed to the death penalty on both ideological and humanitarian grounds. We urge you to grant clemency to Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Note: On June 6, 1995, eleven judges of the newly formed supreme court in South Africa unanimously ruled to abolish the death penalty. For over seven decades, South Africa's death penalty was synonymous with political repression in its most brutal form. This is an important political concession won in the post-apartheid era by the South African masses, particularly the Black majority. Over 4,000 executions are estimated to have taken place during the apartheid period. The overwhelming majority of the victims were Black.

There are now over 3,000 people on death row in the United States. The majority of these victims are also Black.

Voice of the Voiceless: The Case of **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

In the early morning hours of December 8, 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was driving a cab in downtown Philadelphia, supplementing his income as a journalist. The bars were just letting out and the streets were full of people. Suddenly Mumia spotted a police officer beating a young Black man spread-eagled against his car. When he went to investigate, he discovered that it was his own younger brother, Bill Cook, who was being beaten.

A scuffle broke out. Within minutes, Mumia was sitting slumped on the curbstone, critically injured with a gunshot wound in the abdomen. The police officer, Daniel Faulkner, lay dead. Other police came and took Faulkner to the morgue, waiting 45 minutes to carry Mumia to the hospital. Mumia arrived with his head bleeding after being thrown into a lightpole by the arresting officers.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was charged with murder.

By the time Mumia went to trial, he had already been tried and convicted by the news media. A former Black Panther and now a radio journalist well-known for his exposes of police brutality, his political beliefs became central to the news coverage.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, the judge allowed the state to use Mumia's membership in the Black Panther Party to argue for the death penalty. In fact, the prosecution told the jury that Mumia's membership in the Panthers was evidence of his premeditation to kill!

The following is just part of the exchange:

Question (to Mumia): Do you recall saying "All Power to the People?"

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you believe your activity as well as your philoso-

phy are consistent with the quote, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun?"

Answer: I believe America has proven that quote to be true.

Question: Do you recall saying that "The Black Panther Party is an uncompromising party, it faces reality"?

Answer: (Mumia, nodding affirmatively) Yes.

By any standards, this was not a fair trial. There was no physical evidence linking Mumia with the shooting of Faulkner. Mumia did have a gun that night, a licensed .38 caliber handgun he bought after having been robbed twice while driving cab. But not only was his gun never tested for the smell of gunpowder, the medical examiner said that Faulkner was killed by a .44 caliber bullet.

Mumia's court-appointed lawyer was so incompetent that he has since been disbarred. The judge approved only a few hundred dollars for the defense to investigate the case, while Pennsylvania's average allocation in capital cases is \$6,500. The prosecution tried so successfully to systematically remove all African Americans from the jury pool that, in a city that is 40% Black, only two of the jurors were African American.

Mumia was convicted and sentenced to death

In 1989, the State Supreme Court denied his first appeal.

Today Mumia Abu-Jamal has new lawyers, a team headed by noted civil rights attorney Leonard Weinglass. On June 5, 1995, Weinglass and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund filed a 300-page Post-Conviction Review Appeal (PCRA) at Philadelphia's City Hall, while outside hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Mumia's defense.

"What we seek today," Weinglass told the demonstrators, "is Mumia's first day in court, because he hasn't received one yet."

The appeal brief contained 47 exhibits and thirteen affidavits. Among other things, the new appeal detailed the following objections to the original trial:

- ◆ The prosecution's version of the events was that Mumia shot Faulkner, was himself shot once in the chest by the falling officer and then fired four more shots before collapsing. To prove this view, the state presented six witnesses out of the over 120 people at the scene of the shooting. Four other witnesses, however, gave accounts that, to varying degrees, contradicted the

Petition to Save the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a Black political prisoner on Death Row in Pennsylvania. A former member of the Philadelphia branch of the Black Panther Party, he became a radio journalist who concentrated on the issues of racism and police brutality.

On Dec. 8, 1981, Mumia was arrested and charged with the shooting death of a white police officer. The trial was marked by an openly hostile judge, a complete lack of any physical evidence and a court-appointed lawyer so inadequate he was later disbarred for incompetency. A key prosecution witness has since recanted her testimony, saying she was pressured to testify against Mumia by the police.

Mumia was convicted by a nearly all-white jury and sentenced to death. A massive support campaign has so far succeeded in preventing his execution, but the government has refused to grant a new trial.

By any standard, this is a gross miscarriage of justice. We wish to add our names to the hundreds of thousands of people in this country and around the world who are demanding a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Please return this petition to

A Job is a Right Campaign
PO Box 06053, Milwaukee, WI 53206
Phone/Fax: (414) 374-1034

What you can do to help:

Demand a New Trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Contact:

Governor Tom Ridge
Main Capitol Building, Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Voice - 717-787-2500
Fax - 717-772-8284
Fax - 717-783-4429

D.A. Lynn Abraham
1421 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Voice - 215-686-8700
Fax - 215-686-8024

US Atty Gen. Janet Reno
Main Justice Building
10th and Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20053
Voice - 202-514-2001
Fax - 202 514-4371

President William Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500
Voice - 202-456-1111
Fax - 202-456-246

Tax deductible contributions to the defense efforts may be sent to:

The Black United Fund of PA/
Mumia Abu-Jamal Account
2227 No. Broad
Philadelphia, PA 19146

To order more copies of this pamphlet, contact:

A Job is a Right Campaign
PO Box 06053, Milwaukee, WI 53206
Phone/fax: (414) 374-1034
E-mail: ajrc@execpc.com
(Please send \$.50 per pamphlet or \$.35 when ordering ten or more copies.)

Use the petition on page 15 to reach out to more people.

To send messages of support directly to Mumia, write:

Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM-8335
1040 E. Roy Furman Hwy.
Waynesburg, PA 15370-8090

For more information, contact:

International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal
PO Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA, 19143
Phone: (215) 476-8812
Fax: (215) 476-7551
E-mail: mumia@aol.com.

National People's Campaign
39 West 14th St., Suite 206
NY, NY 10011
Phone: (212) 633-6646
Fax: (212) 633-2889

For continuing coverage of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, subscribe to:

First Day
(quarterly newspaper of MOVE)
PO Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143
(\$8/year)

Workers World
(weekly paper of Workers World Party)
55 West 17th St.
NY, NY 10011
Ph: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@wwpublish.com
Web: <http://www.workers.org>
(\$20/year; \$2 for 8 weeks)

prosecution version. These witnesses, situated in four different locations on the street, reported seeing the shooter flee and all had him going in the same direction. None of these eyewitnesses knew each other or Mumia. Yet there was no investigation into these statements. The jury did not hear their version of the events.

- ◆ The jury was not allowed to know that testimony of one prosecution witness differed significantly from his original statement and that the witness was on probation at the time for throwing a Molotov cocktail into a schoolyard for pay.
- ◆ The prosecution's key witness was a woman named Veronica Jones, herself in serious legal trouble and thus vulnerable to police pressure. Less than a week after Faulkner's death, she told police she had observed two men jogging from the scene of the shooting. Abu-Jamal was lying on the ground, wounded. But when called to testify in the 1982 trial, Jones completely changed her story, denying that she saw anyone other than Abu-Jamal and his brother at the scene.
- ◆ A pathologist retained by Weinglass concluded that Mumia was wounded by a bullet that was traveling downward and thus could not have been fired by a collapsing Faulkner.
- ◆ Although two witnesses supported by the Fraternal Order of Police testified to hearing Mumia "brag" of shooting Faulkner as he was carried into a hospital emergency room after being shot, a third witness told a different story. Police officer Gary Wakshul, who was beside Mumia during the entire time in the emergency room, noted in his report, "The Negro male made no statement." Wakshul did not testify during the trial because he was "on vacation".
- ◆ The police ballistic tests were incomplete and insufficient testing was done on Mumia's gun to determine whether it was recently fired or had fired the fatal bullets.

The appeal also stated that Mumia was a target of the FBI's Counterintelligence program and that local law enforcement agencies had a deep seated bias against him.

“Voice of the Voiceless”

Mumia Abu-Jamal joined the Black Panther Party in 1968 in his hometown of Philadelphia. At the time, he was fourteen years old. Earlier that same year, he had been beaten and arrested by the police for protesting an appearance in Philadelphia by Alabama governor George Wallace, who was then running for president.

In 1970, Mumia was appointed Communications Director of the Philadelphia branch of the BPP.

Mumia later became a free-lance journalist and radio talk show host on WUHY, specializing in coverage of events in the Black community. For his devotion to the issues most affecting the poor and oppressed, he became known as the “Voice of the Voiceless”. His work won him attention and recognition. He was elected chair of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He won a Peabody Award for outstanding journalism. In December of 1981, the Philadelphia Inquirer profiled him as “Jamal: An eloquent activist not afraid to raise his voice.”

He also earned the wrath of the Philadelphia Police Department for his relentless exposure of police brutality, particularly against the radical, largely Black organization MOVE. He covered — and exposed — the police siege of the MOVE commune in Philadelphia on Aug. 8, 1978. MOVE would eventually become the object of one of the only aerial bombings of a U.S. city, when Philly cops dropped a bomb from a helicopter onto a MOVE house in 1985, incinerating eleven men, women, children and their animals and setting fire to 62 nearby houses.

Mumia has continued his journalistic work in prison, writing for numerous newspapers and magazines. A book of essays entitled “Live from Death Row” was featured on Entertainment Tonight, CBS Evening News, Hard Copy, The Washington Post and The New York Post. The essays were based on a series of tapes he had recorded for National Public Radio until that project was killed by a right-wing uproar led by the Fraternal Order of Police.

A second book, “Death Blossoms”, has just been published in 1997.

and murdering a youth in the community? When has a politician ever been given the death penalty for cutting thousands of people's medical benefits, welfare, or housing assistance?

The politicians and cops are speeding up executions at the same time they are cutting jobs and basic services for the people. They hope to divide us — and if necessary, to kill us. They fear a renewed movement of the people and they intend to warn us not to rebel. One way they hope to bring that warning home is by taking the life of a rebel named Mumia Abu-Jamal.

We won't let them get away with it. We will make the fight to save Mumia part of the overall war against racism, repression and poverty, against all the attacks on the working class and the communities of color.

Mumia's life has been a clarion call to struggle. Let us now answer that call in his defense.

Smash the Racist Death Penalty!

And then there's the death penalty.

The deep right-wing turn by big business politicians of all political stripes has resulted in a new interest in the death penalty, supposedly in the name of fighting crime. This rightward shift directly affects the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The death penalty is not about "fighting crime". It is a tool to terrorize working and oppressed people and to strengthen the state's ability to use force against the people.

The ruling circles in this country know very well that the death penalty does not deter crime. Texas, the state which has executed the most people, has one of the highest crime rates in the country. Nor do they care if the victims actually committed any crime. The U.S. Supreme Court recently allowed a Texas man to be executed even though he was known to be innocent, since new evidence that showed his innocence was filed just one day late.

The use of the death penalty clearly shows the racism of the rich class of people who run this country. In Pennsylvania, 61% of those on death row are African American, while only 9% of the state's population is African-American. While Black people are regularly executed for killing whites, only one white person has ever been executed for killing an African American. And while literally thousands of Black men have been lynched or executed for alleged assaults on white women, only one white man has ever been executed in this country for the rape of a Black woman.

These facts are no surprise considering that the cops, the courts and the politicians do not represent poor and working people. They're there to protect the landlords when they evict us, the company when we go on strike and the billionaires when we demonstrate and organize against them.

After all, when has a boss ever been given the death penalty after workers have died on the job due to criminally unsafe conditions? When has a cop ever received the death penalty after beating

On Jan. 13, 1995, Mumia was moved to Pennsylvania's new "Super Max" prison in Greene County, a rural area in the southwest part of the state, far from his supporters in Philadelphia. The state now had a new governor, Thomas Ridge, elected on a promise to begin signing death warrants and revive executions in Pennsylvania after a more than 30-year hiatus.

On June 1, just days before Mumia's lawyers were to file his appeal, Gov. Ridge signed Mumia's death warrant. Mumia was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on August 17th — the birthdate of the great Black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey. Ridge's signing of the death warrant followed several weeks of increased coverage of Mumia's case, focused largely on the cops' attempt to silence him.

One aspect of the appeal petition was a motion to disallow Common Pleas Court Judge Albert Sabo from rehearing the appeals. Sabo is the judge who presided over Mumia's original trial. Having sentenced 31 people to death, all but two of them people of color, he holds the national record for handing out death sentences.

As of mid-1995, there were over 180 people on Death Row in Pennsylvania, more per capita than any other state. Philadelphia itself is the number three city in the country in number of death penalties. As of July, 1995, 103 people were on death rows after receiving the death penalty from Philadelphia courts. 91 of these were people of color. Judge Sabo served for fourteen years on a select panel of judges hearing only homicide cases. Although Sabo had fewer homicide cases than his colleagues, he still sentenced more defendants to death. He is seen as the hanging judge of a hanging town in a hanging state.

Further, Sabo has a lifelong association with the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police.

Judge Sabo came out of retirement to hear Mumia's appeal.

Supporters gear up to fight back

Mumia always had a core of dedicated supporters fighting to help him win his freedom. For many years, members of the MOVE organization and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal fought to keep his case alive. Other organizations, such as the New York Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Committee and the Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal in State College, Penn. carried on the struggle as well.

But when Gov. Ridge announced the signing of Mumia's death warrant, it stirred up activity worldwide to win justice for the Black political prisoner. In the week following the announcement, there were actions demanding a new trial for Mumia in over 30 U.S. cities, as well as in Kingston, London, Berlin, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Toronto, Vancouver and other cities.

In Philadelphia itself, where most of the media have continually repeated the police version of the events, close to 700 people rallied in front of City Hall in a demonstration organized by the International Concerned Family and Friends.

The New York Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Committee drew another 500 out to a picket in front of New York's Penn Station during rush hour.

In Washington, a group of demonstrators marched from Union Station to the Hall of States, where Gov. Ridge's Washington office is located.

In Minneapolis, 200 people tied up traffic in a University neighborhood. At the end of the demonstration, the police attacked with mace and horses, arresting nine people.

In San Francisco, a June 26 demonstration of some 700 people was attacked by the police. There were 250 arrests. (Charges were later dropped.)

Despite the fierce opposition of the police and right-wing, Mumia's case has begun to win broad support.

By June 10, 1995, 40,000 petition signatures had been sent to

nity and other communities of color. Milwaukee, a former industrial giant of a city, was once a magnet for Black workers from the South hoping to escape the apartheid-like conditions that were the norm before the Civil Rights struggles of the Fifties and Sixties. Today, after the loss of over 40,000 manufacturing jobs in the last dozen years, the unemployment rate among Black men in Milwaukee is over 50%.

The ruling class's answer for this crisis is more prisons, more police, more repression. Here in Wisconsin, where African Americans make up only 5% of the population, nearly half the state's prison population is Black.

In 1970, there were 200,000 men and women in state and federal prisons. Today there are 1.1 million, with another half million in local and county jails. That's the largest per capita prison population in the world. Some 700,000 are African American men, about half as many Black men as were held in slavery at the beginning of the Civil War. By the end of the century, the total prison population is projected to reach between five and seven million, the overwhelming majority of them Black and Latino men. At the same time, the numbers of women being sent to prison has skyrocketed. Virtually all of these prisoners are poor and working class.

And what will these millions of prisoners be doing? They'll be working — for private corporations, for wages only a fraction of what is paid on the outside. And most of those meager wages will be taken by the government.

That program of prison contract labor (Mumia calls it the "prison-industrial complex") is already in effect in Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, California and many other states. With millions more prisoners coming into the system, the potential for super-profits for private corporations is practically limitless. After all, why move your factory to Mexico when you can set it up right in your own state, with a captive population, free from unions, OSHA and the distracting cares of family?

Prisoners — along with single mothers on welfare — are the ultimate source of cheap labor, and the corporate goal is no less than the recreation of institutional slavery.

We Need Jobs, not Jails!

Gov. Ridge had signed Mumia's death warrant knowing that attorney Leonard Weinglass was scheduled to file a brief requesting a new trial. Weinglass charged that Ridge's haste proves he is driven by a "vengeful race to death with alarming indifference to the judicial process." The legal papers, based on months of investigation, "demonstrate unequivocally that Mumia, a man who has proclaimed his innocence since the beginning, was the victim of a politically-motivated, racially-based prosecution in which evidence of his innocence was suppressed."

Mumia's supporters charge that he is the victim not only of a racist police force and court system, but of the right-wing, pro-death-penalty hysteria sweeping government today.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal cannot be seen in isolation from everything else that is happening in this country today. The corporations are in fierce competition with each other and with other companies overseas. They are all "downsizing" and "streamlining" and "high-teching". The result is the continual lay-off of hundreds of thousands of workers, the breaking of unions and the creation of legions of part-time, low-wage, no-benefit jobs. 30% of all workers in the U.S. now make less than \$7.19-an-hour.

In their unending search to find cheaper and cheaper labor, the corporations move their factories from the unionized North to the largely non-union South. Then they move from the South to countries like Mexico, where the economy has been strangled by the big U.S. banks. Or they move to Haiti, or Indonesia, or anywhere else where the workers are victims of a global economy run by Wall Street.

Meanwhile here at home, it's been "last hired, first fired", as millions of jobs once held by African Americans and other oppressed people have disappeared, in the auto industry, the steel industry, even in service industries like hospitals and home care.

The result is an economic and social crisis in the Black commu-

Gov. Ridge demanding that Mumia not be executed.

In Los Angeles, the coalition in support of Mumia included the actor Mike Farrell, a former co-star of the series "MASH", who is president of the group Death Penalty Focus. Actors Ed Asner and Whoopi Goldberg have attended fundraisers for Mumia.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson sent a telegram to U.S. attorney general Janet Reno calling for a retrial. The City Councils of Detroit, Los Angeles and Madison, Wisc. have passed resolutions of support. Sympathetic articles and Op-Ed pieces have appeared in The New York Times, USA Today and The Washington Post. U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois and U.S. Representatives Ronald Dellums and Maxine Waters of California have appealed against his execution, as have internationally known singer Harry Belafonte, authors Alice Walker and Cornell West, civil rights attorney William Kunstler, former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, poet Sonia Sanchez, Boston University professor Howard Zinn, Southern Christian Leadership Conference president Dr. Joseph Lowery and actor Ossie Davis, who thirty years ago delivered the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral.

And the support is not limited to the United States.

The African National Congress and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) have both sent messages urging that he be granted a new trial. (See page 16.) Amnesty International has taken up the case. On June 20, the Party of Democratic Socialism in Leipzig, Germany, staged a demonstration demanding Mumia's freedom. Members of Workers Russia, a socialist group in the former Soviet Union, has called on Gov. Ridge to commute the death sentence.

The labor movement has spoken out, including ILGWU Locals 6 and 10 in San Francisco, Chicago transit workers, eighteen local AFSCME Presidents in Detroit, as well as unions in Britain and Australia. Members of the French General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the Metro Toronto Labor Council and Vancouver Public Employees in Canada and Section 10 of the Mexican Teachers Union have all come out against the threatened execution.

Mumia's cause has also been taken up by the National People's Campaign, a coalition formed in January of 1995 to fight the right-wing "Contract on America". Mumia was one of the original "Conveners" of the NPC and sent a series of solidarity messages to

its rallies and demonstrations. Along with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the group Equal Justice U.S.A., the NPC initiated the call for the massive National Emergency Rally that took place in Philadelphia on August 12, 1995.

Despite intense police pressure directed against the organizers, that rally drew over 10,000 people, half of them African American, with many Latinos, Asians, Native Americans and progressive whites.

By the first week in August it had become clear that the demonstration was going to be huge. On Aug. 5, Judge Sabo issued a stay of execution. A major victory had been won!

But Mumia remains on Death Row. He is still under a sentence of death and Gov. Ridge could still sign a new death warrant at any time.

In May of 1996, there was a startling new development in the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. A witness in the original trial stepped forward to say that her court testimony had been coerced by the police.

Veronica Jones was the witness who had originally told police she had seen two men jogging from the scene while Mumia lay wounded on the ground. Now, in a sworn deposition, she said that police officers had threatened her with felony charges if she didn't change her story. "The detectives threatened me by reminding me that I faced a long prison sentence — 15 years on drug charges — all the while persisting that I testify to their version of events," she said. She said she had feared for the well-being of her children, who are now grown.

After the trial, she was convicted of the felony charges — and got probation.

On May 22, 1996, Mumia's lawyers filed a motion to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to have the case sent back to the Common Plea level so the new evidence could be reviewed.

A hearing was set for Oct. 1 in Philadelphia — before Judge Sabo. Supporters began to mobilize to pack the courtroom. So did the cops.

Before the hearing, Sabo turned to Jones and asked in a hostile and threatening manner, "Have you been informed of the consequences of perjury? Do you know you could be jailed?"

Despite these threats, Veronica Jones recanted her original tes-

timony, saying she had "fingered" Mumia fourteen years earlier because of police pressure and threats. As soon as she left the witness stand, police handcuffed her and arrested her on a 1994 New Jersey bench warrant!

Supporters immediately began a fundraising campaign to raise bail. At a break in the hearing, they marched to City hall chanting, "Free Veronica, free Mumia!" She was freed on \$10,000 bail the next morning.

As of this writing (Jan. 30, 1997), Mumia's attorneys have filed a new appeal with the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court. The appeal charges that the Philadelphia Police Department, the District Attorney's Office and Judge Albert Sabo have suppressed exculpatory evidence, coerced witnesses and prejudicially compromised Mumia's constitutional right to a fair trial. The appeal also asks that Sabo himself be removed from the case. That appeal will reportedly be ruled on either in mid-February or April of 1997.

Supporters, however, remember that it was this same court that sent the case back to Judge Sabo to be heard on Oct. 1.

"Right now, people need to keep the pressure on the district attorney's office and the members of the state supreme court," said Ramona Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends.

Meanwhile, a separate federal civil lawsuit has been filed in Pittsburgh in which Mumia is charging that prison authorities had been routinely opening mail from his attorneys, photocopying the contents and sending the copies to Gov. Thomas Ridge and other officials. On December 4, Federal District Judge Donetta Ambrose ruled in Mumia's favor on this lawsuit. As of this writing, his lawyers are waiting for a decision as to what remedy will be ordered.